

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 172322Z MAR 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6365

INFO AMCONSUL CAPETOWN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1055

EXDIS

CAPETOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, SF, AO, UK

SUBJ: SECURITY COUNCIL: MEETING ON SOUTH AFRICAN "AGGRESSION"
IN ANGOLA

REF: STATE 62617

1. ALTHOUGH MANY AFRICANS TELL US THIS IS NOT THE CASE, FRENCH MISSION IS CERTAIN THAT AT AFRICAN GROUP MEETING MORNING MARCH 16, IT WAS DECIDED TO PUSH FOR SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON SOUTH AFRICAN "AGGRESSION" AGAINST ANGOLA, BEGINNING MARCH 22. FRENCH UNDERSTAND THAT PRIME MINISTER DO MASCIMENTO WILL BE REPRESENTING MPLA, ALTHOUGH LEGAL CAPACITY IN WHICH ANGOLA WOULD APPEAR IS NOT CLEAR.

2. BRITISH ARE PREPARED TO JOIN US IN STALLING TACTICS REVOLVING AROUND SCHEDULING OF DEBATE FOR CONSIDERATION OF RHODESIAN SANCTIONS EXPANSION (TRADE MARKS, FRANCHISES AND INSURANCE). BRITISH PLAN TO SUGGEST TO TANZANIAN PERMREP SALIM MARCH 17 THAT, PRIOR TO SC CONSIDERATION OF THIS QUESTION, NEW DRAFT RESOLUTION LANGUAGE MUST BE CONSIDERED BY UN SANCTIONS COMMITTEE. ALTHOUGH WE BELIEVE THAT NEW
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COMPOSITION OF THAT COMMITTEE COULD POSE PROBLEMS FOR

BRITISH LANGUAGE (USUN 963), WE CONCLUDE THAT GIVEN UNCERTAINTY OF TIMOR SCHEDULING IN SC, STALLING ON THIS ITEM REPRESENTS ONLY WAY WE CAN BUY SOME TIME IN DELAYING DEBATE ON ANGOLA. ACCORDINGLY, WE RECOMMEND SUPPORTING BRITISH INITIATIVE IN THIS REGARD, TRYING AT SAME TIME TO AVOID GIVING ANY IMPRESSION TO OTHERS THAT WE ARE BEING OBSTRUCTIONIST.

3. IN ANY EVENT, SHOULD DEBATE ON SOUTH AFRICAN "AGGRESSION" IN ANGOLA BEGIN EVEN AS EARLY AS MARCH 22, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT WE WILL HAVE ACCOMPLISHED SOME OF THE TIME BUYING HOPED FOR BY SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER MULLER.

4. FOOTNOTE: SINCE ABOVE WAS DRAFTED, AMBASSADOR BENNETT HAS RETURNED FROM LUNCHEON AT WHICH PERMREPS MAINA OF KENYA AND SANI OF INDONESIA WERE PRESENT. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS MAINA, CURRENT PRESIDENT OF AFRICAN GROUP, EMPHASIZED THAT AFRICANS WANT DEBATE ON ANGOLA TO BEGIN MARCH 22. BENNETT SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THERE WAS TALK: (1) THAT SOUTH AFRICA WAS ENGAGED IN WITHDRAWING ITS FORCES FROM ANGOLA, AND (2) THERE WAS DESIRE ON PART OF SOME MEMBERS FOR EARLY DEBATE ON TIMOR. WOULD THESE DEVELOPMENTS MAKE A CHANGE IN SITUATION? MAINA'S RESPONSE WAS BLUNT AND FORTHRIGHT IN HIS USUAL MANNER. IT WAS ALL RIGHT FOR SOUTH AFRICANS TO TALK ABOUT MARCH 27. THEIR WITHDRAWAL REMAINED TO BE SEEN AND BELIEVED. AFRICANS WANTED DEBATE TO BEGIN MARCH 22. AS FOR TIMOR, SAID MAINA, IF OTHERS ARE INTERESTED IN DEBATING THAT ON URGENT BASIS, THEN HE SUGGESTED WE HOLD DEBATE MARCH 18 AND 19, IMMEDIATELY ON CONCLUSION OF MOZAMBIQUE DEBATE. OTHERWISE, CONSIDERATION OF ANGOLA DURING WEEK OF MARCH 22 WOULD BE CLUTTERED UP WITH EXTRANEIOUS ISSUE.

5. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS, SANI OF INDONESIA DIDN'T SOULD LIKE A MAN PRESSING FOR EARLY DEBATE ON TIMOR. HE EXPLAINED IN HIS CAREFUL WAY THAT WINSPEARE REPORT HAD BEEN RECEIVED ONLY YESTERDAY. HE HAD SENT IT HOME FOR STUDY. REPORT WOULD HAVE TO BE SENT TO DELI FOR STUDY BY AUTHORITIES THERE. HE HAD ADVISED SECRETARIAT THAT HE WOULD LIKE AT LEAST A WEEK'S NOTICE IN ADVANCE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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SCHEDULING OF TIMOR ISSUE TO ENABLE ADEQUATE PREPARATION BY INDONESIA.

6. WE SHOULD BY ALL MEANS SUPPORT BRITISH IN TACTICS OUTLINED IN PARAGRAPH TWO ABOVE. DESPITE MAINA'S FIRMNESS, AFRICANS ARE STILL DIVIDED ON ISSUE OF ANGOLA DEBATE. SCRANTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, INTERVENTION, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976USUNN01055
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760101-0601
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760349/aaaabrct.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 STATE 62617
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <17 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECURITY COUNCIL: MEETING ON SOUTH AFRICAN "AGGRESSION" IN ANGOLA
TAGS: PFOR, SF, AO, UK, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006